

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An image processing apparatus that is connected to a plurality of printers through a network and that transmits a print job including image data to any printers, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory that stores paper sizes available in each printer connected to the network such that paper size information is associated to each printer;

an obtaining unit that obtains multiple image size information regarding a print job;

a comparator that compares each image size and the paper sizes available in each printer;

a selector that selects a printer to which the print job is sent based on a degree of matching of the comparison results obtained by the comparator; and

a transmitter that transmits the print job to the selected printer selected by the selector.

2. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selector selects a printer that has all of the paper sizes that match the image sizes.

3. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selector selects a printer that has the most paper sizes that match the image sizes.

4. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein where none of the printers has all of the paper sizes that match the image sizes, the selector selects a printer that has a paper supply device through which paper of any size is inserted in the printer.

5. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

notification means that notifies an user of that size of paper that is inserted in the paper supply device when the paper supply device is selected.

6. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said device has notification means that notifies the user of all of the image sizes.

7. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein data is communicated between the printers in order to store in the memory the information regarding the paper sizes available in each printer.

8. An image data transmission method to send a print job including image data to a printer selected from a plurality of printers connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

obtaining information regarding paper sizes available in each printer;

comparing paper sizes required by the print job and the obtained paper sizes available in each printer;

selecting a printer based on the results of the comparison; and

transmitting the print job to the selected printer.

9. An image data transmission method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the selected printer has the most paper sizes that match the image sizes.

10. An image data transmission apparatus that sends a print job including image data to a printer selected from a plurality of printers connected to a network, the apparatus comprising:

an obtaining unit that obtains information regarding paper sizes available in each printer;

a comparing unit that compares the paper size requested by the print job and the paper sizes available in each printer;

a selecting unit that selects a printer based on the results of the comparison; and

a transmitting unit that transmits the print job to the selected printer.

11. An image data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the selecting unit selects the printer that has the most paper sizes that match the image sizes.